Indian software companies

1880. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that European countries are becoming major threat to Indian software companies in the near future, for example the booming software market being developed by Bulgaria; and

(b) the steps being taken to counter the move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. As per National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), European countries are not seen as a major threat to Indian IT-BPO companies. Europe is viewed as a growing market opportunity by the industry with share of revenues earned from the region steadily increasing.

(b) Does not arise.

ICT Academy in Kerala

1881. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority during May, 2008 had submitted a proposal to set up an ICT Academy in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the present status of above proposal;

(d) if so, whether above proposal would be considered affirmatively; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up of ICT Academy in Kerala, submitted by the Government of Kerala has been approved by the Government of India. The objective of the ICT Academy is to train faculty who will impart training to students seeking employment in IT and ICT sector.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Post Bank of India

†1882. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts is planning to open 'Post Bank of India';

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the process of withdrawing money illegally from the accounts of account holders is going on continuously;

(c) the number of the accounts of account holders especially those from Bhopal and other towns of Madhya Pradesh from which illegal withdrawal has been made between January, 2005 to December, 2007 alongwith total amount thereof;

(d) the steps taken by Government to make the refund of their amount to the account holders;

(e) whether Government intends to computerize post offices; and

(f) if so, by when and to what extent this would help in checking illegal withdrawal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The proposal of the Department to set up the Post Bank of India' is at conceptual stage and no details have been finalised.

(b) Instances of irregular/fraudulent withdrawal of money from accounts of account holders have been reported from some post offices.

(c) The Information is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(d) In cases of amounts defrauded from Saving Bank accounts, the sanction is issued for the restoration of the defrauded amount with interest thereon after satisfying about the bonafide of the claim of the depositor.

(e) and (f) The computerization of Post Offices and Savings Bank operation is an ongoing process. Computerisation will check procedural irregularities.

Statement

Detail of irregular/fraudulent withdrawals from accounts of account holders noticed in Madhya Pradesh Postal Circle during January 2005 *to December*, 2007

Name of Circle/City	Number of accounts	Amount
Madhya Pradesh Postal Circle (Towns other than Bhopal)	150	25.08 Lakhs
Bhopal	183	16.88 Lakhs

Telephone facility in Orissa

1883. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages that are left out in Orissa where basic telephone facility is not provided till today; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and when the telephone facility could be provided to all villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) There are 47,529 inhabitated villages in Orissa as per Census 2001. Out of this, 39,124 villages have been provided